IN THE CLAIMS:

1-34. (CANCELLED)

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A drive assembly for a passenger conveyor system comprising:

a drive member; and

a plurality of stepchain links each having a plurality of teeth made of an integrated piece of material that engages a corresponding surface on said drive member, said plurality of teeth span an entire width of an interface between said stepchain links and said drive member, and said plurality of teeth are made of a single piece of material.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein each said stepchain link includes an end having two spaced apart portions that at least partially receive another end of another one of said stepchain links.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 36 where said two spaced apart portions of said end each include a hole and said another end includes a corresponding hole, and an attachment member is received through said holes and said corresponding hole to secure said end to said another end.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 36 wherein said two spaced apart portions comprise at least some of said plurality of teeth.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein said plurality of teeth are made of metal.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein said plurality of said stepchain links form a chain that contacts said drive member at said interface, and said entire width of said interface is transverse to a length of said chain, and said plurality of teeth continually engage said drive member at said interface.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein said width of said interface between said drive member and said plurality of stepchain links is between 40 mm and 100 mm.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 41 wherein said width of said interface between said drive member and said plurality of stepchain links is 65 mm.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein said plurality of stepchain links form a chain having a length, and said plurality of teeth have a teeth width which is transverse to said length of said chain, and said teeth width is substantially constant along said entire length of said chain.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein said plurality of stepchain links form a chain having a length, and said plurality of teeth have a teeth pitch which is substantially constant along said entire length of said chain.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein each said stepchain link comprises a single piece of die cast metal.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 45 where said die cast metal is selected from the group consisting of aluminum and magnesium.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 where each said stepchain link comprises an inner portion comprising at least one planar metal piece and an outer portion having said plurality of teeth.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 47 wherein said inner portion includes an opening and said outer portion includes a corresponding opening, and an attachment member is received through said opening and said corresponding opening to secure said inner portion to said outer portion.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 47 wherein each said inner portion is adapted to carry a tensile load on said stepchain links and each said outer portion does not carry said tensile loads.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 47 wherein said outer portion has a first side and a second side and a bottom portion extending therebetween, said bottom portion having at least some of said plurality of teeth.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 50 including a second planar metal piece, and wherein a distance between said at least one planar metal piece and said second planar metal piece is less than a width of said bottom portion.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 47 including a plate having said plurality of teeth secured on said outer portion, wherein said plate is plastic.

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 47 wherein said outer portions of said stepchain links do not contact said outer portion of an adjacent one of said stepchain links.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 where each said stepchain link comprises a central body portion including a drive surface having a first link edge and an opposing second link edge, and at least some of said plurality of teeth continuously extend between said first link edge and said opposing second link edge of said central body portion.

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein said stepchain link comprises a central body portion, and at least some of said plurality of teeth are located on said central body portion.

56. (CANCELLED)

57. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A drive assembly for a passenger conveyor system comprising:

a drive member; and

a plurality of stepchain links each having a plurality of teeth made of an integrated piece of material that engages a corresponding surface on said drive member, wherein each said stepchain link comprises an inner portion adapted to carry a tensile load and a distinct outer portion that does not carry said tensile loads, and said outer portion includes said plurality of teeth.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said inner portion comprises at least one planar metal piece.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said inner portion includes an opening and said outer portion includes a corresponding opening, and an attachment member is received through said opening and said corresponding opening to secure said inner portion to said outer portion.

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 59 wherein said attachment member is interference fit in said opening and said corresponding opening.

61. (CANCELLED)

62. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said outer portion has a first side and a second side and a bottom portion extending therebetween, said bottom portion having at least some of said plurality of teeth.

63. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 62 wherein said inner portion comprises a first planar metal piece and a second planar metal piece, and a distance between said at least one planar metal piece and said second planar metal piece is less than a width of said bottom portion.

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said outer portion of said stepchain links do not contact said outer portion of an adjacent one of said stepchain links.

65. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 where each said stepchain link comprises a central body portion including a drive surface having a first link edge and an opposing second link edge, and at least some of said plurality of teeth continuously extend between said first link edge and said opposing second link edge of said central body portion.

66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said stepchain link comprises a central body portion, and at least some of said plurality of teeth are located on said central body portion.

67. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said plurality of said stepchain links form a chain that contacts said drive member at an interface, and an entire width of said interface is transverse to a length of said chain, and said plurality of teeth continually engage said drive member at said interface.

68. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said plurality of stepchain links form a chain having a length, and said plurality of teeth have a teeth width which is transverse to said length of said chain, and said teeth width is substantially constant along said entire length of said chain.

69. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said plurality of stepchain links form a chain having a length, and said plurality of teeth have a teeth pitch which is substantially constant along said entire length of said chain.

70. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said plurality of teeth span an entire width of an interface between said stepchain links and said drive member.

71. (NEW) The drive assembly as recited in claim 35 wherein said plurality of teeth span the entire width of an entire interface between said stepchain links and said drive member.

72. (NEW) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said plurality of teeth span the entire width of an entire interface between said stepchain links and said drive member.

73. (NEW) The drive assembly as recited in claim 57 wherein said plurality of teeth are made of a single piece of material.